tile industry ,increase in orders for Railway Wagons, revival of sick industries etc. Some of the issues raised in the Memorandum were also discussed in a Tripartite meeting held on 2nd June, 1985 at Calcutta. As the action in this regard is the concern of the Deparment of Textiles and the Railway Board, the matter has been taken up with them.

Exemption of Railwaymen, P&T Employees and Defence Production Staff from the Purview of Industrial Disputes Act

1634. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to exempt the railwaymen, employees of the P&T Department and also employees of Defence production from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act in order to bring them within the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunals under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the detaiis thereof;

(c) whether Government have discussed the matter with the representative unions of these employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) A proposal was received for exempting the Departments of Railways, Posts and Telecommunication and Defence Production under section 36B of the Industrial Disputes Act, so that the employees of these Departments who are at present covered by the Industrial Disputes Act, could take up their individual grievances with the Central Administrative Trbiunals under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. A meeting was held with the Federations/Unions so that they will have an opportunity to express their views before a decision is taken under section 36B of the Industrial Disputes Act. The Unions were generally not in favour of exemption from the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act.

Founding of Gratuity Fund

1635. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to make actuarial valuation of gratuity funds compulsory;

(b) if not, how Government propose to ensure that the provisions made by the corporate bodies are adequate for the purpose of payment of gratuity; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue specific instructions under the Finance Act for funding of gratuity funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (e) A suggestion for making a suitable provision in the Payment of Gratuity Act for compulsory insurance of employers' liability for payment gratuity was considered at the Indian Labour Conference held on 25th and 26th November, 1985 and was generally accepted. The premium rate under the proposed insurance scheme is to be fixed, after actuarial valuation. The recommendation of the Conference will be considered, alongwith the other proposals for amendment of the Act.

Supply of Low Cost Polyester Filament Yarn to Powerlooms

1636. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent powerlooms have been supplied with low cost polyester filament yarn by Government in order to bring down the prices of synthetic fabrics; and